

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A crossword puzzle solution system for completing a diagramless crossword puzzle [[having]] whose overall dimensions, in terms of a rectilinear array of cells contained therein, is given, the puzzle being solvable on a solution grid [[defining a rectilinear array of cells,]] of a given dimension which is greater hen the overall dimension of the puzzle, the [[completion]] solution system comprising:

a plurality of overlays each having a first and a second surface, each overlay including a grid formed on the first surface thereof, the grid of each overlay defining an array of cells, wherein [[the overlays are]] each overlay is selectively [[placable]] placeable on a surface of the solution grid such that the array of cells of the overlay correspond with the rectilinear array of cells of the solution grid, each overlay having an overall dimension which is less than the given dimension of the solution grid.

2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein each overlay is fabricated from a flexible sheet material.

3. (Original) The system according to claim 2, wherein the flexible sheet material is at least one of a paper-based material and a plastic film-based material.

4. (Original) The system according to claim 3, wherein each overlay includes a coating of a selectively repositionable adhesive medium provided on at least a portion of the second surface thereof.

5. (Original) The system according to claim 4, wherein the adhesive medium is at least one of acrylate co-polymers, silicone materials, urethanes, and fluoro-polymers.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 5, wherein a plurality of overlays are operatively joined to one another in a sheet of overlays.

7. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein a plurality of sheets of overlays are operatively joined to one another in a stack.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein each overlay of each sheet is separated from one another by a line of perforations.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The system according to [[claim 9]] claim 1, further comprising a set of instructions for using the completion system.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 10, further comprising at least one set of clues for completing a diagramless crossword puzzle.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of solving a diagramless crossword puzzle whose overall dimensions, in terms of a rectilinear array of cells contained therein, is given, the puzzle being solvable on a solution grid of a given dimension which is greater than the overall dimension of the puzzle, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a diagramless crossword puzzle [[completion]] solution system, the [[completion]] solution system including at least:

a plurality of overlays each having a first and a second surface, each overlay including a grid formed on the first surface thereof, the grid of each overlay defining an array of cells, wherein ~~[[the overlays are]]~~ each overlay is selectively ~~[[placable]]~~ placeable and replaceable on a surface of ~~[[the]]~~ a solution grid such that the array of cells of the overlay ~~[[correspond]]~~ corresponds with ~~[[the]]~~ a rectilinear array of cells of the solution grid, each overlay having an overall dimension which is less than the given dimension of the solution grid;

identifying corner cells of the diagramless crossword puzzle;

placing ~~[[a first overlay]]~~ overlays on ~~[[a]]~~ the solution grid;

beginning resolution of a portion of the diagramless crossword puzzle on the first overlay;

~~marking each cell immediately adjacent to a cell corresponding to the final letter of each Across answer and each Down answer;~~

beginning resolution of other portions of the puzzle on at least one other ~~[[overlays]]~~ overlay; and

arranging and rearranging the overlays to resolve ~~[[the]]~~ a diagram of the puzzle.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

~~[[determining]]~~ calculating a length of a first Across answer;

numbering the cells to the right from an upper left-most cell from the number one up to the number of the length of the first Across answer; and

marking a cell to the right of the cell corresponding to the final cell for the first Across answer, wherein no letter may be placed in said cell.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

placing another overlay over at least a portion of the first overlay;

transposing the marked cells of the first overlay to the another overlay;

~~rotating the another overlay by 180°; and~~

~~placing the another overlay on a lower right-most portion of the solution grid.~~

Claim 15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ 13, wherein the step of identifying the corner cells includes:

identifying Across clues and Down clues having common clue numbers; and

marking the Across clues and the Down clues, sharing ~~[[a]]~~ the common clue ~~[[number]]~~ numbers, with an identifying indicia.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the step of ~~[[determining]]~~ calculating the length of the first Across answer includes:

subtracting one from ~~[[the]]~~ a number of a second Across clue.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the step of beginning resolution of the puzzle includes at least one of determining answers for the Across clues and determining answers for the Down clues.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of placing overlays on at least an upper-half portion of the solution grid.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of [[resolving the puzzle on]] placing answers to the clues onto the overlays placed on at least the upper-half portion of the solution grid.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of:

placing additional overlays, as needed, on the overlays covering at least the upper-half portion of the solution grid; and

transposing any marked cells from the overlays covering at least the upper-half portion of the solution grid to [[the]] additional overlays.

Claim 23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to [[claim 23]] claim 22, wherein the step of providing the completion system further includes:

providing at least one solution grid having a rectilinear array of cells, the solution grid configured to support a plurality of overlays thereon.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the step of providing the completion system further includes:

providing a set of instructions for using the completion system.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 25, wherein the overlays lay one atop at least a portion of another.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein the placing of the first overlay on the solution grid includes the step of placing an upper left-most cell of the first overlay on a cell of the solution grid located in an upper row of the solution grid and on a cell of the solution grid located to the right of a left-most column of the solution grid.

28. (Currently Amended) A kit for completing a diagramless crossword puzzle whose overall dimensions, in terms of a rectilinear array of cells contained therein, is given, the kit comprising:

at least one solution grid having a given dimension which is greater than the overall dimension of the puzzle and defining a rectilinear array of cells thereon; and

a plurality of overlays each having a first and a second surface and having a dimension less than the dimension of the solution grid, each overlay including a grid formed on the first surface thereof, the grid of each overlay defining an array of cells, wherein [[the overlays are]] each overlay is selectively [[placable]] placeable and replaceable on a surface of the solution grid such that the array of cells of the overlay correspond with the rectilinear array of cells of the solution grid, wherein each overlay includes a coating of a selectively repositionable adhesive medium provided on at least a portion of the second surface thereof.

29. (Original) The kit according to claim 28, further comprising:

instructions for using the plurality of overlays to resolve a diagramless crossword puzzle.
30. (Original) The kit according to claim 29, further comprising a booklet of
clues.
31. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein the solution grid is blank.
32. (New) The Method according to claim 12, wherein the solution grid is blank.
33. (New) The kit according to claim 28, wherein the solution grid is blank.